

the burying place of the Hautevilles, fell about the time of his landing before an attack of a thousand Apulian rebels (April, 1133). The King's first object was Apulia; he began there a pitiless war in which neither he nor his savage Moslem mercenaries gave quarter, and which was marked, like all Roger's warfare, not by battles but by endless sieges of towns and castles. The rising could not be suppressed too soon, in view of Lothar's coming. Venosa was recovered, and to punish their probable treason the men, women, and children of the city were all put to the sword. Troia, a place of old Norman memories, received at Roger's hands the deserts of an ingrate. As the King's army appeared the Bishop summoned all the clergy, monks, and people, and clad in white marched at the head of a procession which sang songs of praise and exhibited the relics of saints with the hope of staying the King's wrath. Not all these devices could avert the savage anger with which Roger entered the city. Forgetful of all Catholic practice and, says the prejudiced historian, being a foe of the Christian religion, he fixed his burning eyes with scorn upon the pitiful procession, refused angrily the glory offered to him, and vowed he

would destroy or expatriate the whole
city. Of
the leading burghers five were hanged,
the houses
and goods of the inhabitants were
destroyed by
fire.¹

The siege of Montepeloso in the
Basilicata

¹ Falco, anno 1133.